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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 INRE-00 /045 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:JSBLODGETT:LAR
APPROVED BY AF/C:EMARKS
AF/W:GDIES (DRAFT)
AF/W:JBISHOP (DRAFT)
USDOC/OIM:PMICHELINI (SUBS)
USDOC/BIC/OED/EID:FCRAWFORD (SUBS)
EB/IFD/ODF:JBLANEY (DRAFT)
CIA/OPS/LSN:SKUHN (SUBS)
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O R 142157Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:BEXP, EAID, GB

SUBJECT: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES

REFS: A) LIBREVILLE 1399; B) LIBREVILLE 1402

1. PAAI IS UNKNOWN TO STANDARD BUSINESS SOURCES AND IS NOT LISTED IN AVIATION DIRECTORIES PUBLISHED AS RECENTLY AS SPRING 1976. THIS HOWEVER NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF
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FACT THAT COMPANY EVIDENTLY FORMED ONLY RECENTLY. DUN

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AND BRADSTREET REPORT HAS BEEN REQUESTED BUT WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL TWO WEEKS FROM NOW.

2. EFFICIENT-SOUNDING SECRETARY REPLIES TO PHONE NUMBER SUPPLIED PARA (4), REF (A), BUT AF/C DESKOFF HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO REACH PRINCIPALS, WHO APPARENTLY "CALL IN" FROM TIME TO TIME.

3. PAAI PRESIDENT THOMAS ROBERTSON IS KNOWN TO AF/W IN CONNECTION WITH CHAD PROJECT. LATTER HAS APPARENTLY FALLEN THROUGH FOR VARIETY OF REASONS. AF/W HAS NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM WITH ROBERTSON OR HIS PROJECT IDEAS, BUT HAD RESERVATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF EMBASSY LIBREVILLE ABOUT EXTENT TO WHICH ALL ANGLES -- PARTICULARLY FINANCING -- WERE COVERED IN PAAI PLANNING FOR CHAD OPERATION.

4. PAAI DID PROVIDE AF/W LIST OF KEY SHAREHOLDERS WHICH INCLUDED EXECUTIVES OF SUCH COMPANIES AS SINGER CORPORATION AND LOCKHEED (AS INDIVIDUALS; NO CORPORATE RELATIONSHIP INVOLVED). IN RESPONSE TO DISCREET INQUIRY, JOSEPH BARRON (GEN., USAF, RET.), SINGER V-P FOR GOV'T. RELATIONS, CONFIRMED HE A SHAREHOLDER IN PAAI AND DESCRIBED PLANS FOR TRANSPORT NETWORK AS OUTLINED REFTELS (HE SAID CHAD PROJECT IS ON "BACK BURNER" FOR TIME BEING). MUCH OF IMPETUS FOR NEW IDEA, HE SAID, COMES FROM ENTHUSIASTIC PERSONAL INTEREST ON PART OF IMF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR YAMEOGO (REF. B). ACCORDING TO BARRON, PAAI ONLY INCORPORATED IN JUNE, 1976 (AFTER 18 MONTH GESTATION PERIOD) AND HAS NOT YET BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY GOING OPERATION.

5. DEPT HAS NO INFORMATION ON "AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC INVESTMENT BANK" (REF B). IT COULD WELL BE A CONSORTIUM OF PRIVATE BANKS, OR A PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THIRD-WORLD GOVERNMENTS. USG NOT INVOLVED, HOWEVER, AT LEAST NOT AT WORKING LEVEL, AND HAS CERTAINLY NOT MADE ANY FORMAL COMMITMENT TO NEW BANK.

6. CHECK WITH OTHER USG SOURCES YIELDS NO RPT NO FURTHER PERTINENT INFO ON PAAI. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, IF EMBASSY DECIDES HELP PAAI IN DEALINGS WITH GOG, SUGGEST YOU IN-
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DICATE THAT USG CANNOT VOUCH FOR CAPABILITIES OF THIS FLEDGLING COMPANY, WHICH REMAIN AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY. KISSINGER

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